

DRUG TREATMENT OF MEASLES.

SIR,—I should like to endorse the remarks made by Dr. H. J. Clutterbuck in the *British Medical Journal* of June 21st regarding the treatment of measles by the powder consisting of aceto-salicylic acid, compound ipecacuanha powder, and phenacetin. The results have been most gratifying. Two years ago I had the opportunity of using this method of treatment in fifty cases. There was a very rapid improvement in almost every case. The cough was markedly relieved and it was seldom necessary to give the powder during the night as the patients slept well. All these cases occurred in boys between the ages of 10 and 18 years. Up to the age of 16 the doses given were aceto-salicylic acid $2\frac{1}{2}$ grains, pulv. ipecac. co. $1\frac{1}{4}$ grains, phenacetin $1\frac{1}{4}$ grains every four hours. In patients over 16 the amounts were doubled.—I am, etc.,

Holt, Norfolk, June 23rd.

A. S. HENDRIE, M.B.Ed.

SPINAL ANAESTHETICS.

SIR,—Mr. H. H. MacWilliam, in a letter published in the *Journal* of June 21st (p. 1154), has pointed out a slight inaccuracy in my article on spinal anaesthesia (June 14th, p. 1088). The statement that planocain "is really strychnine-free spinocain" is perhaps not quite correct. The planocain we used was not the same as the product usually supplied under that name by May and Baker, and which Mr. MacWilliam has probably used in his cases. These solutions have the following formulae:

Solution No. 1.

Planocain (novocain)	0.2 gm.
Gliadin	0.0065 gm.
Alcohol (5 per cent.)	to 2 c.cm.

Solution No. 2.

Ephedrine hydrochlor.	0.05 gm.
Planocain	0.01 gm.
Normal saline	to 1 c.cm.

Recently May and Baker have issued a new product called duracaine light solution, made up in 3 c.cm. and 1 c.cm. ampoules respectively. The 1 c.cm. ampoule has the same formula as the No. 2 solution quoted above, but the 3 c.cm. ampoule contains the following constituents:

Planocain	0.1 gm. per c.cm.
Gliadin	0.00325 gm. per c.cm.
Ethyl alcohol (15 per cent.)	to 3 c.cm.

We have used duracaine in the last thirty cases, and have found it the most satisfactory of any solution so far.—I am, etc.,

Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, June 23rd.

R. A. GRANT.

JAMES MACKENZIE.

SIR,—With reference to my lecture on "James Mackenzie and his message," which was published in your issue of June 7th, I should like you to correct one small error. On page 1035, among several names of men associated with Mackenzie, occurs that of Cushing. This, of course, should read Cushny. I was referring to the late Professor Cushny, whose work on digitalis is so well known.—I am, etc.,

Liverpool, June 24th.

JOHN HAY.

Medico-Legal.

AUTOMATIC MACHINES FOR SALE OF DRUGS.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY'S TEST CASE.

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, which recently issued a warning on the dangers of automatic machines for the sale of drugs (*British Medical Journal*, January 18th, p. 134), brought, on April 21st, a friendly action at the Wood Green County Court, against Harry Ronald Watkinson, a chemist and a member of the society, of Lordship Lane, Tottenham, claiming £5 penalty for breach of the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908.

Mr. Glyn Jones, for the Pharmaceutical Society, sought the ruling of the judge (Judge Crawford) on a new and important point arising under that Act. He said that Mr. Watkinson, the defendant, was a loyal member of the society, and no reflection was cast on him as a chemist, but the society

thought it undesirable that the public should have access, without the intervention of a qualified chemist, to all manner of poisons which might be offered for sale by means of automatic machines. The question was, whether the sale of poisons from these machines was lawful. Bottles of lysol, bearing a statement to the effect that they contained 50 per cent. of cresol, and labelled "Poison," were bought by an inspector in the employ of the society from an automatic machine outside Watkinson's shop. The point made was that the sale of these poisons was the carrying on of the business of a chemist and druggist, which must, in accordance with the statute, be conducted by a qualified chemist, which an automatic machine was not. He added that the use of these machines was enormously extensive, and if they were contrary to law the decision of the court would be of far-reaching importance.

At an adjourned hearing, on May 21st, Mr. George Pollock, representing the chemist, said that his defence was that, although the sale complained of fell within the range of general supervision, it did not fall within the particular point of supervision required for a sale of poison for which the purchaser had to sign a book recording the sale of dangerous drugs.

Judge Crawford gave a considered judgement on June 26th. He found in favour of the Pharmaceutical Society for the amount claimed (£5) with costs. He said that the defendant, in his view, carried on the business of a chemist and druggist through the medium of an automatic machine, from which he sold to the public a dangerous poison. The evidence satisfied him that any child tall enough to place a coin in the slot and take a bottle of lysol could do so without the knowledge of the defendant or any person in his employment. Beyond all question, this ought not to be allowed. A highly qualified analyst had found that the bottle contained over 47 per cent. of homologues of carbolic acid, and no supervision had been exercised over the sale of the poison. The sale of such a dangerous poison as lysol certainly ought to be part of the business of a chemist and druggist rather than of any other trader.

Obituary.

DR. CECIL WEBB-JOHNSON, who died in London on June 23rd, was born in 1879 at Stoke-on-Trent, where his father, Dr. Samuel Johnson, was medical officer of health; his brother is Mr. Alfred Webb-Johnson, surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital. He was educated at Owens College, Manchester, and the London Hospital, graduating M.B., Ch.B. Manch. in 1903. After serving as clinical assistant at the Chelsea Hospital for Women, he was appointed, in 1906, assistant medical officer to the Staffordshire County Asylum. For some years before the war he had held a commission as Captain R.A.M.C., T.F., and at the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association at Aberdeen in 1914 he acted as joint honorary secretary of the Section of Naval and Military Medicine and Surgery, opening a discussion on common ailments in camp, their prevention and treatment. After the outbreak of war he was sent to India, where he served with the rank of major, and held in turn the posts of civil surgeon and officer in charge of the station hospital at Dum-Dum; specialist in midwifery and diseases of women and children, 8th Lucknow Division; and medical officer at station hospitals in Calcutta, Lucknow, and Allahabad. On returning to England in 1919 he began private practice in London, and was for some years clinical assistant at the National Hospital for Diseases of the Heart. The interest he had taken while in India in dietetics and disorders of metabolism led him to write a number of popular works on diet, obesity, and kindred subjects. Dr. Cecil Webb-Johnson was also well known as a composer of waltz tunes and other light musical pieces.

We regret to record the sudden death, on June 26th, of Dr. C. J. R. MACFADDEN of Hampstead, at the age of 59. He was educated at the University of Edinburgh, where he graduated M.B., C.M. in 1894, proceeding M.D. four years later. He held the appointments of medical officer to the Hampstead Provident Dispensary, divisional surgeon to the Metropolitan Police since 1919, and medical referee under the Workmen's Compensation Act for the district of the Marylebone County Court. He was also assistant commissioner of the Prince of Wales's district of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and honorary life member, examiner,